

Federal Superfund Site Assessment Petition for the Citizens Manufactured Gas Site (also known as Public Place and Gowanus Green)

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Mon 8/23/2021 6:13 PM

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To:

Mr. Michael Regan, USEPA Administrator

Mr. Walter Mugdan, USEPA Region 2 Acting Administrator

Mr. Pat Evangelista, USEPA Region 2 Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division

August 23, 2021

Re: Federal Superfund Site Assessment Petition for the Citizens Manufactured Gas Site (also known as Public Place and Gowanus Green)

Voice of Gowanus joins residents of the Gowanus community in urging the EPA to assess the former Citizens Manufactured Gas Plant site for a Hazard Ranking Score and potential inclusion on the National Priorities List as a Federal Superfund site. Voice of Gowanus is a coalition which was formed to advocate for the health and safety of current and future residents as New York City uses zoning changes to encourage re-development of manufacturing and brownfield sites along the Gowanus Canal. The Citizens Site is a major concern because of the level of pollution and the planned use as low-income housing and a school.

The August 20 letter sent by residents Katia Kelly, Steve Marcus, Margaret Maugenest and Linda LaViolette shares details about the history and remediation of the site. Voice of Gowanus supports that letter's request for the EPA's assessment of the site, particularly since NYS DEC's current oversight through the Brownfield Cleanup Program resulted in the downgrading of the planned cleanup in 2020. The community deserves full transparency about the level of contaminants at the site and the plans for cleanup. EPA oversight of the Citizen's site would reassure residents that the cleanup would meet the needs for future uses on the site.

Thank you for your consideration of that petition, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stoller, on behalf of Voice of Gowanus